

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

CD NO.

DATE DIST. *15* Feb 1950

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

POLAND'S EXPORTS, IMPORTS UP

<u>Country</u>	<u>Export from Poland in %</u>	<u>Import to Poland in %</u>
Countries of Western Europe (excluding Germany)	20.0	17.9
Germany	24.1	23.0
England	18.2	11.4
Scandinavian countries	9.6	5.6
Countries of northeastern Europe	7.2	5.4
USA	7.2	12.2
Argentina	1.9	2.8
USSR	0.8	1.1

In 1938 Poland was an agricultural country and exported chiefly raw materials and rough-processed or cheap items; it imported finished manufactures or expensive items. While raw materials or semimanufactures, valued at 1,010,000,000

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Before the war, Poland's foreign trade was in an advanced stage of manufacture constituted only 10 percent, whereas 36 percent of imports were items in an advanced stage of manufacture. Had these been long-term investment goods, especially machinery, instead of consumers' goods, they might have had an economic basis. However, statistics show that investment goods comprised only about 14 percent of the total value of imports.

Since the war, Poland's foreign trade has undergone great transformation through the industrialization of the country and a change in foreign policy. There has been closer association and cooperation with neighboring countries having similar social structure.

The average monthly turnover in 1948 was 369,000 tons, greatly exceeding the prewar level.

While before the war, such important items as tools, machines, and transportation and communication equipment formed a very negligible part of imports, at present they hold a leading position. In a planned economy, export is only a tool serving to facilitate the import of raw materials, investment goods, tools, auxiliary materials, and at times even consumers' goods, but always in quantities and assortments indispensable to the national economy as a whole.

Imports of ore, a basic and key raw material, have doubled and in some instances even tripled over the prewar volume. Imports of fertilizer have also increased because of the ravages of war, the exhausted condition of the soil, and the planned increase in yield. Imports of foodstuffs and other consumers' goods, which were in first place in the early postwar years, have declined.

Exports show a real change in volume, assortment, and quality of goods. More semimanufactures and manufactures are being exported instead of goods in the early stages of manufacture or raw materials as was the case before the war. Coal continues to be one of the most important export items. Other industrial products are becoming important, such as wood products (especially furniture), packing boxes, and paper (the export of which increased eight times in the period from 1947 to 1948), bast fiber sacking, chemical products, ceramic and glass manufactures, electrotechnical equipment, etc. Farm products exported include rye, barley, oats, eggs, bacon, poultry, fish, etc.

The most essential change in Poland's foreign trade since the war is undoubtedly the change in geographic destination. Before the war the nearest and most natural markets such as the USSR and the countries of southeastern Europe were neglected.

In 1948 the participation of the USSR and the people's democracies in Poland's foreign trade was 36 percent, the USSR being in first place. The value of Poland's total foreign trade was 360 million dollars and the USSR's share of this was 230 million dollars.

Because of restrictions imposed by the USA against the people's democracies, Poland's trade transactions with the USA declined from 10 percent to less than 3 percent. The share of the Scandinavian countries in Poland's trade is over 20 percent. Poland now trades with 33 countries and has bilateral agreements with 23 of them.

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